Ambala cantonment, New Delhi, Moradabad, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Barauni & Khagaria.

(b) and (c) Around 24,658 passengers travelled by these trains from October 2006 till date and the earning therefrom was Rs. 1.38 crores (approx.).

(d) In order to inform the public of the various features including the date of launch of Garib Rath Express trains, which is a new concept of providing fully air-conditioned services at affordable prices for the common man, Rs. 1.62 crore have been incurred on advertisements in newspapers.

Toxic spots of India

*254. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have gone through the report released by the Fuller Institute in New York in which they have identified six toxic spots marring India's growth story;

(b) whether Government are aware that these spots are located in Kolkata, Kanpur, Vapi, Ankaleshwar and Ranipet; and

(c) what action Government plan to take to stop toxicity emanating from these industries situated in above towns, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. A report titled "Worlds Worst Polluted Places The Top Ten" has been released by the Blacksmith Institute, New York in October, 2006. The report gives the list of 35 polluted sites across the continents prepared by the Institute, which includes six (6) sites in our country, namely, Picnic Gardens, Kolkata, Vapi, Ankleshwar, Kanpur, Bhopal and Ranipet. Out of these sites, Ranipet, which has pollutants of tannery wastes, figures in the Top Ten List.

The Government is unaware of the professional credentials of the Blacksmith Institute, or its affiliation to commercial and/or political interests. The basis of the report i.e. data and methodology is also unclear. The

report, to our knowledge has not undergone scientific peer review, and thus cannot be accepted as legitimate science.

(b) and (c) The Central Pollution Control Board has identified 24 critically polluted areas which includes Vapi and Ankleshwar whereas the other sites do not figures in the list. In the picnic garden area of Kolkata, the problem pertains to the lead smelting units and disposals of lead bearing slag and in the sites of Kanpur and Ranipet the problems pertain to effluents from leather tanneries. Various steps have been initiated for the abatement of pollution in the above areas, which include:

- Closure of some of the lead smelting units in Kolkata and preparation of the remediation plans for disposal of lead bearing slag.
- Formulation of action plans in respect of Vapi and Ankleshwar as critically polluted areas. The action plan includes treatment of industrial wastes water in individual and Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) and disposal of hazardous waste at Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF).
- Setting up of the chrome recovery units and treatment of the waste water from tanneries on priority at Kanpur and Ranipet.

Capital investment in SSI

*255. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of small scale industries functioning at present as on date alongwith the capital investment made in the different parts of the country, State-wise particularly in Assam;

(b) the details of small scale industries lying as sick in the country alongwith the capital investment made therein, alongwith the reasons for their sickness, State-wise;

(c) whether any economic package in this regard has been formulated for their revival; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?